88 **3§Mi:LE** ZOLA, NOVELIST AND REFORMER

comedy, « L'CEiHefc blanc," at the Come'die

Franchise, and another, " La Berniere Idole/' at the Ode'on. He contributed to "Le Petit Moniteur/" —a one-sou adjunct the official journal — in whose columns he signed either " Baptiste " or " Jehan de 1'Isle." Further, he begun familiar " Tartaiin" under the title of "Le Don Ouichotte l^ro venial" ; and he gave his charming " Lettres Moulin " to « L'iEve'nernenfc," at the very time was providing that journal with literary gossip. voung Mien met occasionally at the offices as well as at Villemes" sant's country house at Seine-Port, and Zola greatly struck by Daudet's handsomeness, -" his abundant of hair, his silky, pointed beard, his large eyes, slender and amorous mouth, the whole illumined by a light, of instinct with, a soft voluptuousness, in such wise that face beamed with a smile at once witty and sensual. thing of the ITrench gamin and something of woman the of the East, were blended in him."1 Biit Daudet and Zola, afterwards such good did friends, not become intimate at this time. They elbowed merely one another on a few chance occasions, then followed different roads they had chosen, roads which seemed likely to part them for ever, but which ended by bringing them as

near one to the other as their natures allowed.

In those days one of the institutions of literary boulevardian Paris was the Librairie Nouvelle, which been founded in 1853 or 1854, at the corner of vard des Italiens and the Rue de Grammont, by M. Bonrdilliat, who subsequently sold the enterprise Michel to Le"vy, the -well-known publisher. This Librairie

i Zola's ^{(t} Ikes Eomaaciers Naturalistes," Paris, Oliarpentier, 1881 *et se\$*.